

# FACT SHEET



**PCB Treatment, Inc. Superfund Site**  
**Kansas City, Kansas**  
**Kansas City, Missouri**

**June 2001**

## BACKGROUND

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 continues to oversee activities at the PCB Treatment, Inc. (PCB, Inc.) site in the Kansas City metropolitan area. PCB, Inc. began operations at 2100 Wyandotte Street, Kansas City, Missouri in 1982.

A portion of the operation moved to 45 Ewing Street, Kansas City, Kansas in 1984. EPA permitted the PCB, Inc. facility to treat and dispose of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from 1982 until 1986. The permit to treat and dispose PCB-contaminated materials expired in 1986 and was not renewed.

EPA inspected the facility in 1985. The inspection was done under the EPA's Toxic Substances Control Act's (TSCA) spill policy. TSCA tracks chemicals that may pose health and environmental hazards. The inspection revealed numerous spills and mishandling of PCB containing materials. Due to these problems, EPA assessed a monetary penalty against the facility. As part of the negotiated settlement, PCB, Inc. was to clean the buildings at 2100 Wyandotte and 45 Ewing Streets. Unfortunately the clean up efforts were not successful.

## SUPERFUND INVOLVEMENT

The PCB, Inc. site was referred to Superfund during early 1995. Superfund is the federal program that locates, investigates and cleans up hazardous waste sites throughout the country. Superfund cleanup is paid for either by parties responsible for contamination or by the Superfund Trust Fund.

Under the Superfund law, EPA is able to require those companies and individuals responsible for the site contamination to perform and pay for the cleanup work at the site. Superfund monies are used primarily when those entities responsible for contamination at Superfund sites cannot be found or cannot perform or pay for the cleanup work.

## SITE UPDATE

The EPA notified interested parties of the technology that had been proposed to address contamination at the PCB, Inc. site. A public comment period on the proposed response action began on June 8, 2000 and concluded on July 10, 2000. During this time, an availability session was held to allow interested parties to ask questions and get information from EPA. EPA prepared written responses to all comments/concerns raised during the public comment period.

EPA then selected its response actions and published the decisions in an Action Memorandum on August 3, 2000. The selected response actions are:

- the controlled demolition of both building structures with proper disposal of all building debris and items contained in the interior of the buildings;
- and excavation and disposal of the contaminated soils surrounding each structure.

EPA sent settlement offers to a group of *de minimis* parties during August 2000. These *de minimis* parties sent between 0.003% and 0.002% of the total allocated weight to the site. These *de minimis* parties were offered the opportunity to “cash-out” by signing an administrative order and complying with the payment provisions. Each party electing to settle with EPA agreed to pay its allocated share of the projected response costs plus a 100% premium. Sixty-nine *de minimis* parties settled with EPA. The administrative order was issued pursuant to section 122(g)(4) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Recovery Act of 1980, 1986 (CERCLA or Superfund) and became effective following a 30 day public comment period.

EPA sent settlement offers to a second group of *de minimis* parties during June 2001. These *de minimis* parties sent between 0.003% and 0.8% of the total allocated weight to the site. These *de minimis* parties were offered the opportunity to “cash-out” by paying their allocated share of the projected response costs plus a premium of either 50% or 100%. By paying the 100% premium, the settling *de minimis* party would have no liability for the site in the future. Those settling *de minimis* parties

electing to pay only the 50% premium have a re-opener clause in the settlement agreement. Should the response costs exceed \$60,000,000, the settled *de minimis* party would be required to make an additional payment.

EPA has begun negotiations for performance of the response action with the Steering Committee for the PCB, Inc. site. After negotiations are complete, an Administrative Order will be signed by the parties agreeing to perform the work and by the EPA.

## OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST

The area surrounding the former PCB, Inc. facility at 2100 Wyandotte, Kansas City, Missouri is part of the Freight House District. Re-development of this area is a high priority for the City of Kansas City, Missouri. New restaurants are being established in close proximity to the site.

EPA has been notified of plans to convert buildings, located across Wyandotte, into residential lofts. EPA is working with all involved parties to get the response action accomplished in a timely manner.

Renovation of a building located 1800 feet from the former PCB, Inc. facility on Ewing street has been approved by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Kansas. The building is to be used to construct residential living spaces (lofts).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

EPA encourages community members to review the Administrative Record File for the site. The Administrative Record File is available for public review at the following locations during normal business hours:

Kansas City, Kansas  
Main Public Library  
625 Minnesota Avenue  
Kansas City, Kansas

Kansas City, Missouri  
Main Public Library  
Government Documents  
311 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Missouri

EPA Region 7  
Docket Room  
901 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have additional questions about this fact sheet or the sites, please contact:

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